Reviewer's report

Title: Prevention and treatment of acute radiation-induced skin reactions: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials

Version: 2 Date: 20 November 2013

Reviewer: Alex Molassiotis

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for asking me to review this paper. It is very well written, overcomes some of the issues of past reviews and provides a more concrete view of the evidence in this field. I have only a couple of comments to make the paper a stronger contribution.

1. Searches were completed 11/2012, i.e. a year ago. Since then there have been a couple of more papers published that are relevant. I would suggest that authors update their search before publication (my preference) or at least identify these studies and incorporate them in the discussion. From a quick PubMed search I can see the following new papers:

   - Sharp et al. No differences between Calendula cream and aqueous cream in the prevention of acute radiation skin reactions – Results from a randomised blinded trial Eur J Oncol Nurs 2013


   - A paired, double-blind, randomized comparison of a moisturizing durable barrier cream to 10% glycerine cream in the prophylactic management of postmastectomy irradiation skin care: trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group (TROG) 04.01.


   There may be others.

2. Some (Chinese medicine I think) products are also included, i.e. Lian Bai liquid etc, we don't really know what these are, please briefly describe what they are and their key constituents.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

No conflict of interest nor competing interests